

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on p. 7, l. 15 as follows:

The broke may contain the latex polymer at a level ranging from about 1% to about 60% by weight, in some embodiments from about 5% to about 50% by weight, ~~and in some embodiments,~~ in some embodiments from about 10% to about 40%, and in some embodiments, from about 10% to about 20% by weight, based upon the total weight of the broke. In some instances, even higher levels of a latex polymer may be accommodated by the present invention. Surprisingly, it has been discovered that broke containing large amounts of a latex polymer may still be recycled in accordance with the present invention without the use of polymer-reducing chemical treatments.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on p. 8, l. 23 as follows:

In this regard, referring to Figs. 1-2, one embodiment of a technique for forming a latex-treated paper towel is shown. In this embodiment, a multi-layered stratified web 36 is formed as shown in Fig. 1. Specifically, a three-layered head box 10 is provided that includes an upper head box wall 12 and a lower head box wall 14. The head box 10 further includes a first divider 16 and a second divider 18, which separate three fiber stock layers. Each of the fiber layers may include a dilute aqueous suspension of paper making fibers. An endless traveling forming fabric or surface 26, suitably supported and driven by rolls 28 and 30, receives the layered paper making stock issuing from head box 10. If desired, the forming surface 26 may have a three-dimensional contour. For instance, some suitable forming fabrics that may be used in the present invention include, but are not limited to, Albany 84M and 94M available from Albany International; Asten 856, 866, 892, 934, 939, 959, or 937; Asten Synweve Design 274, all of which are available from Asten Forming Fabrics, Inc. of Appleton, Wis. Other suitable forming fabrics may be described in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,120,640₂ to Lindsay, et al. and 4,529,480 to Trokhan, which are incorporated herein in their entirety by reference thereto for all purposes.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on p. 10, l. 28 as follows:

In one embodiment, the latex-containing broke is first subjected to a pulping process to break down the fibers and reduce their size. To begin the pulping process, the latex-containing broke is diluted with water and then introduced into a pulper. One particular type of pulper that may be used in the present invention is commonly referred to as a "rotor/stator" pulper. The rotor and stator acquire and cut fibers with a scissors-like action. The cutting occurs at an interface having a truncated conical geometry. In one embodiment, the interface is defined, in part, by a series of generally triangular segments, or "lobes" of the stator. Each lobe curves along an outer edge of a generally circular base and inclines inwardly. The inner surface of these lobes defines a conical interface. An outer cutting edge of the blades on the base of the rotor define the inner boundary of the interface. The cutting occurs between the blade cutting edges and the leading edge of each triangular stator lobe. Once acquired and reduced to a sufficiently small size, the material is defibered in an attrition zone of the pulper between the lobes and the outer edges of the blades. One suitable rotor/stator-type pulper is the "TORNADO" pulper, which is commercially available from Bolton-Emerson of Lawrence, Massachusetts. It is believed that the "TORNADO" pulper is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,365,761 to Danforth, which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference thereto for all purposes. Other suitable rotor/stator types of pulpers are also described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,482,095 to Danforth; ~~5,011,911~~ 5,011,091 to Kopecky; 6,053,441 to Danforth, et al.; 6,302,342 to Danforth, et al., which are also incorporated herein in their entirety by reference thereto for all purposes.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on p. 12, l. 1 as follows:

Pulping and refinement also generally transform the latex-containing broke into fiber aggregates having a small size for reuse in other products. For instance, larger particles generally have a negative affect on the handfeel of the product. However, it is usually not desired to reduce the size of the fibers to such an extent that they effectively become "fines", which do not possess as good as functional characteristics as larger materials. Thus, in some embodiments, the average diameter of the fiber aggregates

may range from about 0.2 millimeters to about 12 millimeters, in some embodiments from about 0.5 millimeters to about 6 millimeters, and in some embodiments, from about 1 millimeter to about 4 millimeters. For example, in some embodiments, the latex-containing broke may be degraded by the pulper into fiber aggregates having an average diameter of less than about 6 millimeters by the pulper, while refinement may be used to further reduce the size of such aggregates to less than about 4 millimeters.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on p. 12, l. 27 as follows:

Without intending to be limited by theory, it is believed that these unique "partially coated" aggregates are due in part to the source of broke. For instance, as indicated above, the source of broke may be a product in which only a portion of the fibers are latex-treated. Examples of such products are those having a surface on which latex is printed in a spaced apart pattern. The presence of latex polymer only on the surface of the latex-treated paper product allows much of the interior of the product to remain relatively free from the latex polymer. Thus, when processed, the fibers of the interior are more likely to remain free from latex treatment when degraded into smaller fibers ~~and/or~~ and/or fiber fragments.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on p. 20, l. 21 as follows:

7. Repeat step 6 until ~~was~~ wash water is mildly discolored.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on p. 24, l. 22 as follows:

Thus, as indicated above, the addition of broke can result in an improvement in water capacity and peel strength. An expert panel also determined that the two ~~product~~ products possessed approximately the same handfeel rating.